

What is the Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Line Project?

It is an Eversource proposal seeking to construct a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Sudbury and Hudson.

The line would pass through residential neighborhoods, business and historic districts, and conservation lands of Sudbury, Marlborough, Stow, and Hudson.

8.9 miles of lines would be located within an existing Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) railroad bed that runs through Sudbury neighborhoods as well as Hop Brook conservation area and Memorial Forest and borders a federal wildlife refuge.

Overhead or underground lines along the right of way could be selected.

Protect Sudbury, and the Towns of Sudbury and Hudson, are fighting to have the lines put under street (not on the right of way) but ONLY after it is proven that this line is even necessary.

What's wrong with Eversource's proposal?

It's not needed: It's based on flawed forecasting and overstated, outdated assumptions about electricity demand. It does not take into account changes in efficiency, demand response, and how electricity is generated with renewables & storage, as we move to the clean energy future.

There are alternatives: There are other routes that are much less damaging communities, the environment, and health. The NGrid proposal involved upgrading an existing transmission line with minimal additional impacts; within Sudbury, an under street route would cause temporary traffic disruption during construction, but have other no long term impacts.

It's destructive to communities, the environment, and human health: Eversource's proposal to route the line along the MBTA right of way would destroy sensitive conservation land, including wetlands that provide flood control and aquifer recharge for the region. The proposal shows build cost as the primary consideration, but does not consider the lifetime costs or environmental, community and health impacts.

What does this mean to the people of Sudbury?

The project will:

Cause permanent damage to conservation areas and the protected species of plants and animals that live there.

Bisect pristine unfragmented forest

Lower property values

Increase health risks

Cause visual pollution

Threaten the water supply of 18,000 people

What is being done about it?

Citizens of Sudbury formed a non-profit called Protect Sudbury which opposes the transmission line project. Protect Sudbury has raised funds to fight the project in court and our mission is to preserve the conservation land, protect our citizens, our water supply, and our community.

